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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kazuo YAMAGATA et al.
 Serial No : Not Yet Assigned (National Stage of PCT/JP01/06000)
 Filed : International Filing Date July 11, 2001
 For : COATED CUTTING TOOL

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fees and the examination of the above-identified patent application on the merits, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows (a marked-up copy of the claim amendments is provided as an attachment to this Amendment):

3. (Amended-Clean Text) A coated cutting tool according to Claim 1, wherein the hard coating layer comprises one or more kinds of substances selected from the group consisting of carbides, nitrides, carbonitrides, borides, and oxides of one or more kinds of metal elements selected from the periodic table IVa, Va, VIa groups, Al, and Si, and solid solutions thereof.